**Navratna status for SCI**

3155. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request is pending with Government to grant the Navratna status to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);

(b) whether Government feel that granting of this status would facilitate SCI to compete with the growing demand for fleet acquisition; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in order to consider the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Many areas of deficiency have been noticed in corporate governance of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) which need to be removed in the interest of efficiency and transparency. SCI is taking corrective measures to ensure that its internal governance system achieves a level of efficiency and transparency that a company should desirably achieve before Navratna status is bestowed on it. The progress of SCI towards these reforms is being monitored regularly.

**Retirement age of port employees**

3156. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of Message No. A38011/5/98-P.E. issued by the then Ministry of Surface Transport on 28th May, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that the retirement age of employees of major ports was raised from 58 to 60 years;

(c) what is the situation as on 1st May, 2007 as far as retirement age is concerned; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the M.O.S.T. letter No. PR-12016/42/2/2000-PE/1 dated 17th October, 2000 has created anomaly in his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The age of retirement of the Port and Dock employees and officers was enhanced from 58 to 60 years *vide* OM No. A-38011/5/98-PE.I dated 28th May, 1998.

(c) The age of retirement of Port & Dock employees as on 1.5.2007 is 58 years.

(d) No, Sir. Based on the Calcutta Port Trust's Board Resolution No.I 128 dated 25.8.2000 seeking approval of the Central Government for rolling back the retirment age of the employees fo Kolkata Port Tust from 60 to 58 years, the Government conveyed approval *vide* letter No. PR-12016/42/ 2000-PE-I dated 18th October, 2000.

**Condition of roads under NHDP**

3157. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by NHAI regarding bad condition of roads under NHDP; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Some representations were received, especially during monsoon season, regarding repair and maintenance of certain highways/bridges under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which were duly attended to as part of maintenance to keep the highways/bridges in traffic worthy condition.

Wherever 4/6 laning works under NHDP are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condtion, the maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. In case of sections identified under NHDP where 4/6 laning has not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads are being carried out by NHAI, State Public Works Departments (PWDs)/Border Road Organisation (BRO) through funds provided by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.